

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5. Illustrates different alleles of ~~SSL7~~ **bind IgA**. **A.** Amino sequence alignment of known alleles of mature SET1, including SSL7_GL10 (SEQ ID NO:6), SSL7_GL1 (SEQ ID NO:7), SSL7_MW2 (SEQ ID NO:14), SSL7_NCTC8325 (SEQ ID NO:15), SSL7_Mu50 (SEQ ID NO:16), SSL7_N315 (SEQ ID NO:17), SSL7-NCTC6571 (SEQ ID NO:18). Two local clinical isolates (GL1 and GL10) are included in the alignment. Identity (*), strong similarity (:), and weak similarity (.), at each amino acid position is indicated. **B.** Proteins eluted from immobilized alleles (GL1 and GL10) that differ in 30/201 amino acids (underlined in A) run on SDS PAGE under reducing conditions. Both alleles bound IgA and C5 from two human sera. A.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

A SET1 protein of the invention may be exemplified by the following amino acid sequence which is provided on GenBank:

SET1 gi|6176432|gb|AAF05587.1|AF188835_1 [Staphylococcus aureus subsp.

NCTC83256571] exotoxin 1 (set1) gene, set1-A allele, complete cds

MKLKTLAKATLALGLLTTGVITSEGQAVQAAEKQERVQHLHDIRDLHRY

SSESFEYSNVSGKVENYNGSNVVRFPKQDQNHQLFLLGKDKEQYKEGLQG

QNVFVVQELIDPNGRLSTVGGVTKKNNKTSETNTPLFVNKVNGEDLDASI

DSFLIQKEEISLKELDFKIRQQLVNNGLYKGTSGYKGIINLKDENKVE

IDLGDKLQFERMGDVLNSKDIRGISVTINQI [SEQ ID NO:1].